

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 23-43 and 45-46 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 22 and 44 have been canceled. Claims 4-5, 7, 15, 18, 21, 23-24, 27, 30, 38, 41 and 45 have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

Claims 4-14, 16-20, 27-37, and 39-43 stand rejected upon informalities (e.g., 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph), and claims 21, 23-26, 38 and 45 stand rejected on prior art grounds.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 22 and 44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. While Applicant submits that the rejected claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record, to speed prosecution allowable claims 22 and 44 have been incorporated into independent claims 21, 23 and 24, to make them (and their dependencies) allowable.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3, 15 and 46 have been allowed, that claims 22 and 44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and that claims 4-14, 16-20, 27-37 and 39-43 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE 35 USC §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION

Claims 4-14, 16-20, 27-37, and 39-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended, above, to overcome this rejection. Specifically, claims 4, 18, 27 and 41 have been amended to recite “wherein Himage represents a horizontal coordinate of said image and Vimage represents a vertical coordinate of said image”. Claims 7 and 30 have been amended to remove the phrase “not computed in earlier iterations” and to replace the term M_k with the term I_k .

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

II. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In response to Examiner’s objections, the claims have been amended in a manner believed fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-21, 23-43 and 45-46, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

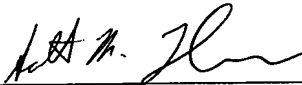
Serial No. 09/578,473
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

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